

Essential Support Provided for Lalitpur Nursing College

When Nepal first opened its doors to the outside world in the early 1950's there were no professional nurses in the country. The school now named Lalitpur Nursing Campus began teaching Nepal's first nurses in 1956, and today offers a Certificate Nursing Program and a Post-basic Bachelor of Nursing Program for its students. Accredited by the Nepal Nursing Council, more than 700 professional nurses have been educated at Lalitpur Nursing Campus over its 45-year history. Importantly, because the school offers boarding, girls from all over the country have access to this education, and graduates of Lalitpur Nursing Campus are working in health care settings all over Nepal where many are in leadership positions in the government and private organizations.



But faced with an increasingly difficult political and economic climate in the country, the school began to face problems in the 1990s. By 2000, due to disrepair and degradation of the facilities, the school was at great risk. In 2003, USAID's American Schools and Hospitals Abroad program granted \$300,000 to upgrade and enhance the physical facilities at Lalitpur Nursing Campus and equip it to continue to prepare high quality professional nurses. These funds were used to renovate an existing four story 21,000 sq. ft. nursing school building: repair structure, replace doors and fire escapes, enlarge rooms, replace electrical wiring and fixtures, add a transformer and back-up generator and replace water and sanitary systems and fixtures as required. The successful completion of this project allows continuous operation of the school using US practices and medical technology that will influence health care in Nepal by providing skilled and compassionate nurses who demonstrate quality nursing care wherever they serve.

"Today, there are many students like me who are in real need of hostel in Lalitpur Nursing Campus as they are from very far and remote part of the country and not having any place or relatives to live with, obviously this can be the absolute problem for Nepalese girls throughout the country. In such circumstances the renovated building can accommodate students from various parts of the nation, who benefit from all the required facilities, security, comfort and peace which will definitely improve the standard of training and overall nursing education. ... I would like to say that we are really very grateful, thankful and show the grand attitude to USAID which has helped in renovating old building, understanding the need of nursing students. ... We assure you that we will try our best to protect, utilize the resource and make it appreciable by our good deeds as nurses. We will make USAID feel proud of its contribution." Uma Situala, Student, Lalitpur Nursing College